

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, said absorbent article comprising an elastic component selected from the group consisting of an ear and a side panel, said elastic component comprising a first substrate having an elastomeric composition applied either directly or indirectly via a printing method in a predetermined geometric pattern, ~~said pattern comprising at least two differing individual elastomeric members~~ selected from the group consisting of rectilinear stripes, curvilinear stripes, triangles, trapezoids, squares, parallelograms, polygons, ellipses, circles and combinations thereof, said pattern comprising at least two individual elastomeric members differing in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between said elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between said elastomeric members, differing mechanical properties between said elastomeric members, and differing visual appearance between said elastomeric members and such that said elastomeric composition partially penetrates said first substrate, wherein said at least two differing individual elastomeric members are ~~parallel or~~ non-parallel with respect to each other in said elastic component and wherein said elastomeric members have a width dimension of at least about 2.0 mm.
2. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component has a percent set less than about 20%.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said predetermined geometric pattern is selected from the group consisting of continuous patterns and intermittent patterns.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastomeric members have a thickness dimension of at least about 0.1 mm.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously presented) A absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said differing elastomeric members are spaced apart, adjacent to or at least partially overlap each other.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein said elastic component comprises at least one additional elastomeric composition disposed on said substrate.
16. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 15 wherein said elastic component comprises first and second elastomeric compositions and said second composition is disposed on said substrate in a pattern different than said first composition.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 20 wherein said two differing elastomeric members differ in elastic properties.
23. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of nonwoven fibrous webs and woven fibrous webs.
24. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 23 wherein said fibers comprise a polyolefin material.
25. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component has been incrementally stretched.
26. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component further comprises a second substrate joined to said first substrate to form a laminate, wherein said elastomeric composition is disposed between said first and second substrates.
27. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 26 wherein said second substrate comprises a film.
28. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said printing method is selected from the group consisting of gravure, offset gravure, intaglio, flexographic and ink jet.
29. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastomeric member has a melt viscosity of from about 1 to about 150 Pa·s, measured at 175 °C and 1 s⁻¹ and an elasticity of at least about 50 N/m.
30. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 6 wherein the thickness of at least one of the elastomeric members varies from one part of the member to another.
31. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 30 wherein the thickness varies discretely, continuously or a combination thereof.

32. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 further comprising a plurality of first elastomeric members that are parallel to one another and a plurality of second elastomeric members that are parallel to one another, wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are non-parallel with respect to each other.
33. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 32 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members differ in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between said first and second elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between said first and second elastomeric members, differing visual appearance between said first and second elastomeric members and differing elastomeric composition between said first and second elastomeric members.
34. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 32 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are perpendicular with respect to each other.
35. (Previously presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 31 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are applied in a single step continuous process.
36. (New) An absorbent article, said absorbent article comprising a waist member, said waist member comprising a first substrate having an elastomeric composition applied either directly or indirectly via a printing method in a predetermined geometric pattern, said pattern selected from the group consisting of rectilinear stripes, curvilinear stripes, triangles, trapezoids, squares, parallelograms, polygons, ellipses, circles and combinations thereof, said pattern comprising at least two individual elastomeric members differing in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between said elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between said elastomeric members,

Appl. No. 10/811,527
Docket No. 8768MD2
Amdt. dated April 16, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed on January 16, 2008
Customer No. 27752

differing mechanical properties between said elastomeric members, and differing visual appearance between said elastomeric members and such that said elastomeric composition partially penetrates said first substrate, wherein said at least two differing individual elastomeric members are non-parallel with respect to each other in said waist member and wherein said elastomeric members have a width dimension of at least about 2.0 mm.